

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICK
HOFFENBERG AND THE MARY-
WOOD CAMPUS CHOIR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marywood Campus Choir under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg. The choir filled the rotunda on Marywood University's campus on May 2–3 2015 for a program entitled "Almost A Cappella." The performance was unique in that it featured musical accompaniment for the first time in the four years that the University has been giving choral concerts inside the rotunda.

The concert opened with Richard Rodney Bennett's "A Farewell to Arms" with the Campus Choir singing to cello accompaniment, beginning with a cello solo elegy performed by Mrs. Christiane Appenheimer-Vaida. This memorable piece was followed by Henryk Gorecki's "Lobgesang" featuring the glockenspiel performed by Christopher Morrison.

Next on the program were two selections by Stephen Chatman, "Alas, that Spring should vanish with the rose" and "Thou whose harmony is the Music of the Spheres." The former featured the florid accompaniment of a clarinet performed by Ms. Katie Morell who did ascending scales and trills as part of the flowery duet with the choir. The latter featured accompaniment by oboe performed by Mr. Thomas Heinze, and here the musical embellishment was melancholy and blended with the wistful sounds of the choir.

The Chatman selections were followed by Stephen Paulus' "Meditations of Li Po." The piece concluded with a draining of the voices to the sound of hand bells performed by Ms. Mary Ann Rutkowski. The concert concluded with two selections of Giovanni Gabrieli, his "O Quam Suavis" and his "Angelus Domini Descendit," to the accompaniment of oboe courtesy of Thomas Heinze, clarinet courtesy of Katie Morell, bassoon courtesy of Alyssa Speicher, and horn courtesy of Sarah Schouten. These selections were caught in the jaws of articulation between the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music and sounded a bit like music from both time periods.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Rick Hoffenberg and the Marywood Campus Choir for their excellent performance. May they continue to contribute to the cultural value of Marywood University and its surrounding community in greater Scranton, Pennsylvania.

ESSAY BY SAKU GOPINATH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds

a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Saku Gopinath attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. In your opinion, what makes the political process in Congress so challenging?

Anyone can see that Congress as it operates today is largely ineffective, failing to represent its constituents, and the numbers support this opinion. As a Gallup poll stated, the approval rating for Congress was at an all time low during the 2013–2014 period at 14.5%, indicating the lack of faith the American people have developed in it. In my opinion, it is the attitude towards politics that makes the political process in Congress so challenging—an attitude that sacrifices democratic values to pursue victory above all else.

The political process of Congress is essentially the rules, procedures, and practices by which the majority organizes the institution to achieve its goals of policymaking and resource allocation; this process creates a power struggle, five different struggles to be exact, but each is necessary for Congress to function per its design. Of the struggles between the President and Congress, the House and the Senate, the political parties, the elected majority party leaders and majority party committee chairmen, and the individual members to get the most for their districts and states from the Federal government and thereby ensure their reelection, I will focus on that between the political parties. A clash of contrasting ideals is an old story in America, its origins dating back all the way to America's creation with the opposition between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists with differing ideas of the scope and purpose of the new government. At that time, however, the parties chose to compromise, and incorporated principles from each belief to create stronger policies. The fact is that the rivalry between these two broad philosophies often proved highly productive, and this cooperation was able to take place because they shared a commitment to democracy.

The competition between opposing views has begun to degenerate into something toxic, however, creating an environment in which politics is treated as war, and compromise is seen as a weakness. While it is unclear what the exact cause of this problem is, its symptom is clear: ineffectiveness. Evidence of this is provided by the 234 bills passed by the 113th Congress, the lowest recorded total in congressional history. It is obvious that the fervor to win too often trumps everything else—including respect for opponents, the integrity of institutions, and even the health of the democracy itself. A clear example of the detrimental effect this attitude is having on the political process of Congress is the 16 days the government was shut down in October of 2013 due to Congress's inability to compromise. The time has come to remedy this problem, and for politicians to adopt a new attitude—or rather, return to an old state of mind.

The only way to simplify the political process of Congress is to create a renewed sense of commitment to democracy—above party interests and ideology, or economic interests. It is only in the context of such a shared commitment that differences in opinions and beliefs can be fruitful and benefit the American people.

CONGRATULATING NETHALINE
HOPE NOTHNAGEL ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nethaline Hope Nothnagel, of Willard, Missouri, on her 90th birthday. Hope, as she's known by loved ones, has led a truly remarkable and full life over the course of her 90 years.

Starting in her home state of Minnesota, she has lived in states far and wide, ranging from Alaska to North Carolina due to the military career of her husband Ervin—to whom she has been married for more than 50 years. Hope has 6 children: Ervin, Monica, Nelda, Joe, Jim and Norm. She additionally has 7 grandchildren: Renee, Eric, Perrin, Adam, Matt, Sam and Katie. Finally, Hope has 9 great-grandchildren: Cassie, Cruize, Kelsey, Kylie, Brooks, Owen, Davis, Gavin and Everrett.

Even with a family this large, Hope was not content to merely serve as a matriarch. She worked various jobs during her life, ranging from executive secretary, to managing libraries and bookstores to serving as a professional seamstress for many years. Currently, Hope keeps occupied through her passion for reading and love of the outdoors. She often feeds and observes the wildlife on her 18 acre farm, and still shows off her green thumb with her love of gardening.

Mr. Speaker, Nethaline Hope Nothnagel has lived an accomplished life and raised a wonderful family. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hope for reaching this tremendous milestone and living her life as a role-model for the younger generations in her family.

CONGRATULATING TORI MCCOY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tori McCoy on being selected as a member of the 2016 McDonald's All American Basketball Team.

Since 1978, the McDonald's All American Basketball Games have helped raise more than \$11 million for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Tori will join athletes like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, and Shaquille O'Neal in this distinguished honor.

She was selected from more than 750 nominees to represent some of the best high school basketball talent in the country. Born and raised in Champaign, Tori is a senior who currently plays as a forward for the St. Thomas More Sabers. She first earned the attention of many college recruiters two years ago when she helped the Sabers win a state title as a sophomore. Since then, she has been considered a top prospect for many basketball programs across the country, but will join the Ohio State Buckeyes after graduation.

The first Girls Game for the McDonald's All American Basketball Games was held in 2002,

and Tori is the first from my district to achieve such an honor. I am very proud of Tori's talent as a student athlete. I congratulate her on the outstanding accomplishment of being a member of the 2016 McDonald's All American Girls Game winning team, played at the United Center on March 30th.

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-
NOLOGISTS—COY GARDNER**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coy Gardner from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Coy attends Katy High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Coy was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Coy and all of his hard work, and know he will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Coy for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

**HONORING SUNFLOWER COUNTY
FREEDOM PROJECT**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Sunflower County Freedom Project.

Founded in 1998, the Sunflower County Freedom Project was started by three Teach for America teachers who saw a need for an educational program in the Mississippi Delta that would challenge and engage young people in the area. Initially, the organization was a summer program at Mississippi Delta Community College that grew into a year-round program at the University of Mississippi. In 2002, the organization purchased the LEAD Center in Sunflower, which houses all of their programs. They target students in Sunflower County to complete a six-year fellowship with the organization beginning with the summer before they begin seventh grade. The overall

goal is to have 100 percent of their "fellows", also known as students, go on to enroll in four year colleges and universities. To this date they have met that goal.

The Freedom Project is for students in 7th–12th grade who want to discipline themselves into becoming leaders in their homes, schools and communities. The middle school students partake in Freedom Summer, which is named for and rooted in the Civil Rights history of Freedom Summer '64. The high school students can participate in ACT Camp or summer opportunities around the country including Philips Exeter Summer Academy and Explo at Yale University.

They seek to provide students with opportunities and challenges that will allow them to grow and mature into leaders for the Mississippi Delta. The multi-faceted approach includes rigorous academic work, arts enrichment, fitness and wellness training, educational travel and character development for every student. They travel the country, live in college dorm rooms, and camp in the wilderness to develop our students and enrich their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sunflower County Freedom Project for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

**CASA OF MERCED COUNTY—
ALLIED PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) advocates for the silent voices of crime victims. JIM COSTA (D-CA) and I founded the VRC 10 years ago when we were first elected to Congress. During its 10 year existence, the VRC has taken the lead in protecting programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). Each year the members of the caucus join together to honor outstanding individuals who have given their time and service to helping victims. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Caucus.

On behalf of Congressman COSTA (D-CA) and myself, we are proud to recognize an organization that makes a big difference in the San Joaquin Valley: Court Appointed Special Advocates also known as CASA of Merced County. Nominated by Congressman COSTA, the CASA of Merced County is the recipient of the VRC Allied Professional Award.

With a mission to place every child in a safe, loving, and permanent home, CASA relies on the work of volunteer advocates for the interests of children overlooked by society. In order to ensure that every child is properly taken care in the eyes of both the law and the community, these volunteers provide judges with detailed information of a child's home life and legal situation to help judges better understand each and every child's unique story.

The Executive Director, Shar Herrera and her staff work diligently to support children

who are victims of abuse and neglect. Sadly, children who are victims of neglect and are in the foster care system are too often in a situation where they do not have a single person in their life that they can trust and rely on. But Merced CASA has changed that horrible reality for hundreds of children throughout Merced County.

CASA volunteers are often there for the children beyond just the courtroom; they are friends, mentors, and confidants for the children they support. The volunteers who are trained by CASA for Merced County change children's lives for the better every single day. CASA and their advocates have done right by their community, and, most importantly, right by children in need. I am proud to recognize them as the recipient of the Allied Professional Award.

And that is just the way it is.

**TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
FORRISTALL**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard Forristall of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on his recent retirement as a Deputy with the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department. For more than 33 years, Deputy Forristall has served Pottawattamie County citizens. He began his career in court security, later joining the road division where he became a K-9 handler.

Deputy Forristall said, "When I started, I was one of the only K-9 handlers in the area. I helped other surrounding counties, the Iowa State Patrol, and the Department of Transportation." He said he enjoyed meeting and helping people. Pottawattamie County Sheriff Jeff Danker said, "He's done a great job. He's done a lot of things for us. You hate to see him go, but I know he's done a great job for the citizens of Pottawattamie County."

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Forristall made a difference by serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to Pottawattamie County and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF GLEN AND POLLY
BARTON**

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Polly Barton for their tireless contributions to Peoria, Illinois and the surrounding communities. Glen and Polly Barton have dedicated their time, money, and most importantly their passion to making the community a better place to live. The Bartons are recognized as leaders and philanthropists where their generosity and guidance have touched the lives of so many.